

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled).

2. (cancelled).

3. (currently amended) An image retrieving and delivering server according to claim 7 ^{[[1]]}, wherein the contents additional service means produces data, which relates to the retrieval result and of which the reception in the user terminal is possible, according to the delivery condition specified by the user and transmits the data to the user terminal before the transmission of the retrieval result.

4. (currently amended) An image retrieving and delivering server according to claim 7 ^{[[1]]}, further comprising:

contents description meta-data producing means for extracting a feature degree of each of a plurality of input images and format information of the input image and producing a feature descriptor or a plurality of feature descriptors of each input image; and

data storing unit for registering the feature descriptor or feature descriptors produced by the contents description meta-data producing means and the input image relating to the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors in the data base.

5. (currently amended) An image retrieving and delivering server according to claim 7 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the contents additional service means comprises at least one of:

converting means for converting an image format and an output format in the image of the retrieval result into those suitable for the terminal information of the user terminal;

filtering means for performing no transmission of the retrieval result which does not suit the terminal information; ~~or~~ and

replacing means for replacing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information with substitute data suitable for the terminal information.

6. (currently amended) An image retrieving and delivering server according to claim 7 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the contents additional service means transmits the retrieval result, which is not edited or processed, to another terminal specified by the user in advance when the retrieval result is edited and processed according to the terminal information of the user terminal.

7. (currently amended) An image retrieving and delivering server ~~according to claim 1,~~ for delivering image data to various types of user terminals, comprising:

a data base for registering an image including a moving picture or a static picture with a feature descriptor or a

plurality of feature descriptors of the image;

image retrieving means for retrieving the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors registered in the data base according to a retrieval condition input by one of the various types of users and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition; and

contents additional service means for editing and processing the retrieval result according to a delivery condition obtained from the one of the various types of the user terminals in order to deliver the retrieval result,

wherein each of the user terminals has a processing capability according to the type of user terminal, and wherein the delivery condition specifies the processing capability of each user terminal, and

wherein the contents additional service means comprises a plurality of editing means for respectively editing and processing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information ~~[[of]]~~. obtained from the user terminal, and the plurality of editing means are properly selectable in one of an image retrieval requiring side, an image retrieval performing side and a contents providing side on which the images are registered in the data base.

8. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering server ~~according to claim 1,~~ for delivering image data to various types of

user terminals, comprising:

a data base for registering an image including a moving picture or a static picture with a feature descriptor or a plurality of feature descriptors of the image;

image retrieving means for retrieving the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors registered in the data base according to a retrieval condition input by one of the various types of users and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition; and

contents additional service means for editing and processing the retrieval result and an image format according to a delivery condition obtained from the one of the various types of the user terminals in order to deliver the retrieval result,

wherein each of the user terminals has a processing capability according to the type of user terminal, and wherein the delivery condition specifies the processing capability of each user terminal, and

wherein the image format includes at least one of a coding method of the image of the retrieval result, a bit rate, a frame rate, a resolution degree and a file size.

9. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering server according to claim 3, wherein the contents additional service means produces the data, which relates to the retrieval result and of

which the reception in the user terminal is possible, according to copyright information and/or a distribution condition of the image of the retrieval result.

10. (currently amended) An image retrieving and delivering system, comprising:

a data base for registering an image including a moving picture or a static picture with a feature descriptor or a plurality of feature descriptors of the image;

image retrieving means for retrieving the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors registered in the data base according to a retrieval condition input by a user and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition;

output control means for transmitting the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors relating to the retrieval result to a user terminal prior to the retrieval result;

contents description meta-data analyzing means, arranged in the user terminal, for analyzing the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors transmitted from the output control means and determining whether or not the retrieval result is to be received; and

a transmitter for transmitting, in case where the retrieval result is to be received, the retrieval result in response to a transmission request,

wherein the retrieval result contains an image format that includes at least one of a coding method of an image of the retrieval result, a bit rate, a frame rate, a resolution degree, and a file size.

11. (currently amended) An image retrieving and delivering method for delivering image data to various types of user terminals, comprising:

an image retrieving step of retrieving a feature descriptor or a plurality of feature descriptors of an image registered in a data base according to a retrieval condition input by one of the various types of user terminals and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition; and

a contents additional service step of editing and processing the retrieval result according to a delivering condition obtained from the one of the various types of the user terminals in order to deliver the retrieved results,

wherein each of the user terminals has a processing capability according to the type of user terminal, and wherein the delivery condition specifies the processing capability of each user terminal, and

wherein the retrieval result contains an image format that includes at least one of a coding method of an image of the retrieval result, a bit rate, a frame rate, a resolution degree,

and a file size.

12. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 11, wherein the contents additional service step includes a step of obtaining terminal information of the user terminal as the delivery condition.

13. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 11, wherein the contents additional service step includes a step of producing data, which relates to the retrieval result and of which the reception in the user terminal is possible, according to the delivery condition specified by the user and a step of transmitting the data to the user terminal before the transmission of the retrieval result.

14. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 11, further comprising:

a contents description meta-data producing step of extracting a feature degree of the image and format information of the image when the image is input and producing the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors; and

a data storing step of registering the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors produced in the contents description meta-data producing step and the input image in the data base.

15. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 12, wherein the contents additional service step includes at least one of a converting step of converting an image format and an output format in the image of the retrieval result into those suitable for the terminal information of the user terminal, a filtering step of performing no transmission of the retrieval result which does not suit the terminal information, and a replacing step of replacing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information with substitutive data suitable for the terminal information.

16. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 12, wherein the contents additional service step includes a step of transmitting the retrieval result, which is not edited or processed, to another terminal specified by the user in advance when the retrieval result is edited and processed according to the terminal information of the user terminal.

17. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 13, wherein the contents additional service step includes a step of producing the data, which relates to the retrieval result and of which the reception in the user terminal is possible, according to copyright information and/or a

distribution condition of the image of the retrieval result.

18. (currently amended) An image retrieving and delivering method, comprising:

an image retrieving step of retrieving a feature descriptor or a plurality of feature descriptors of an image registered in a data base according to a retrieval condition input by a user and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition;

an output control step of transmitting the retrieval result and the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors relating to the retrieval result to a user terminal; and

a contents description meta-data analyzing step of analyzing the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors transmitted in the output control step and determining on the user terminal side whether or not the retrieval result is to be received,

wherein the retrieval result contains an image format that includes at least one of a coding method of an image of the retrieval result, a bit rate, a frame rate, a resolution degree, and a file size.

19. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering system, comprising:

a data base for registering each of a plurality of images including a moving picture and a static picture with a feature

descriptor of the image;

image retrieving means for retrieving one feature descriptor registered in the data base according to a retrieval condition input by a user and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition; and

contents additional service means for editing and processing the retrieval result according to a delivery condition obtained from a user terminal side which the retrieval result is to be received,

wherein the contents additional service means further comprises:

terminal information obtaining means for obtaining terminal information of the user terminal as the delivery condition; and

a plurality of editing means for respectively editing and processing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information of the user terminal, and the plurality of editing means are properly selectable in one of an image retrieval requiring side, an image retrieval performing side and a contents providing side on which the images are registered in the data base;

wherein the contents additional service means further comprises at least one of:

converting means for converting an image format and an output format in the image of the retrieval result into those suitable for the terminal information of the user terminal;

filtering means for performing no transmission of the retrieval result which does not suit the terminal information; and

replacing means for replacing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information with substitutive data suitable for the terminal information.

20. (previously presented) An image retrieving and delivering system, comprising:

a data base for registering each of a plurality of images including a moving picture and a static picture with a feature descriptor of the image;

image retrieving means for retrieving one feature descriptor registered in the data base according to a retrieval condition input by a user and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition; and

contents additional service means for editing and processing the retrieval result according to a delivery condition obtained from a user terminal side which the retrieval result is to be received,

wherein the contents additional service means further comprises:

terminal information obtaining means for obtaining terminal information of the user terminal as the delivery condition;

wherein the contents additional service means further comprises at least one of:

converting means for converting an image format and an output format in the image of the retrieval result into those suitable for the terminal information of the user terminal;

filtering means for performing no transmission of the retrieval result which does not suit the terminal information; or
and

replacing means for replacing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information with substitutive data suitable for the terminal information, and

wherein the image format includes at least one of a coding method of the image of the retrieval result, a bit rate, a frame rate, a resolution degree, and a file size.

21. (new) An image retrieving and delivering server according to claim 8, wherein the contents additional service means produces data, which relates to the retrieval result and of which the reception in the user terminal is possible, according to the delivery condition specified by the user and transmits the data to the user terminal before the transmission of the retrieval result.

22. (new) An image retrieving and delivering server according to claim 8 further comprising:

contents description meta-data producing means for extracting a feature degree of each of a plurality of input images and format information of the input image and producing a feature descriptor or a plurality of feature descriptors of each input image; and

data storing unit for registering the feature descriptor or feature descriptors produced by the contents description meta-data producing means and the input image relating to the feature descriptor or the feature descriptors in the data base.

23. (new) An image retrieving and delivering server according to claim 8, wherein the contents additional service means comprises at least one of:

converting means for converting an image format and an output format in the image of the retrieval result into those suitable for the terminal information of the user terminal;

filtering means for performing no transmission of the retrieval result which does not suit the terminal information; and

replacing means for replacing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information with substitute data suitable for the terminal information.

24. (new) An image retrieving and delivering server according to claim 8, wherein the contents additional service means transmits the retrieval result, which is not edited or processed, to another

terminal specified by the user in advance when the retrieval result is edited and processed according to the terminal information of the user terminal.